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Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON BORDER, MARITIME, AND GLOBAL
COUNTERTERRORISM**

**“Homeland Security Beyond Our Borders: Examining the Status of
Counterterrorism Coordination Overseas”**

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311 Cannon House Office Building
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Good Morning Chairwoman Sanchez and members of the Committee.

It is my honor to appear before you today with my distinguished colleagues. I would like to thank you and the Committee members for your continued support and interest in the Bureau of Diplomatic Security's (DS) protective and investigative programs. Through Congressional support, DS safeguards American diplomats, facilities, and information around the world. Counterterrorism coordination, security overseas, and the task of limiting terrorists from accomplishing their goals is of paramount concern to DS and requires a multi-agency effort for success.

As the most widely represented law enforcement organization in the world, DS is the primary U.S. law enforcement contact for foreign government and law enforcement authorities at 285 State Department posts worldwide. Our presence includes nearly 1,450 Special Agents dispersed among 25 field and resident offices domestically, with representation on 26 Joint Terrorism Task Forces, and assignments to U.S. embassies and consulates in 159 countries. DS Agents serving around the world in embassy and consulate Regional Security Offices manage the security programs that ensure the safety and security of U.S. Government personnel, facilities, and classified information.

DS's efforts can manifest themselves at any time or any place around the globe. In May and June 2006, when a rupture between the national Government and security services of East Timor resulted in heavy fighting, DS agents at the U.S. Embassy in Dili assisted with emergency preparedness and response, including the evacuation of U.S. citizens to Australia. Later in the summer, DS agents on the ground in Beirut, Damascus, Ankara, Tel Aviv, and Nicosia, along with other Department of State employees, were critical elements in the safe evacuation of nearly 15,000 American citizens from Lebanon during the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah.

It is important to note that providing security for our diplomatic interests from all possible threats overseas requires a multi-agency, coordinated approach. To ensure effective utilization of the law enforcement and intelligence tools at their disposal, Ambassadors utilize Emergency Action Committees (EACs) and Law Enforcement Working Groups (LEWGs) at overseas posts to coordinate the activities of all participating agencies.

The EAC is a group of senior-level officers representing all U.S. Government agencies at post. The EAC provides the Ambassador or principal officer with guidance in preparing for and responding to threats, emergencies, and other crises at post or against U.S. interests elsewhere. Each post is responsible for preparation of the Emergency Action Plan, which is designed to provide procedures and protocols for just about any type of unforeseen event. It identifies actions the post, Department, and other Federal agencies might take to mitigate and manage an emergency or threat to U.S. interests.

Additionally, to better coordinate U.S. law enforcement efforts overseas, DS and other Federal law enforcement agencies participate in LEWGs at U.S. missions abroad.

These working groups will fulfill a role similar to their domestic Joint Terrorism Task Force counterparts, with the goal of improving information sharing and coordination among various law enforcement components.

One of the most critical national security challenges our country will face for the foreseeable future is the desire of terrorists to inflict catastrophic harm to the United States and our citizens. A key element in all terrorist operational planning is access to their target. Such access necessitates the acquisition of travel documents (including visas and passports) that allow terrorists to enter and move freely within our borders.

As the law enforcement arm of the U.S. Department of State, DS is responsible for upholding the integrity of U.S. visa and passport documents. Our partnership with the Bureau of Consular Affairs (CA) and worldwide presence make DS uniquely positioned to meet the serious national security challenge of travel-document fraud and to be the premier agency for the investigation of U.S. passport-and-visa fraud.

Terrorists attempt to discover, manipulate, and exploit vulnerabilities within our travel document system. To successfully counter this threat, DS, last year, crafted the Visa and Passport Security Strategic Plan that leverages our international expertise and worldwide presence. The Plan provides the framework for the worldwide Visa and Passport Security Program that will significantly augment the Department's ongoing efforts to prevent terrorist travel. Our approach incorporates the principles of the National Strategy to Combat Terrorist Travel and addresses the objectives of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004.

The Plan is built upon a cornerstone of three strategic goals:

- To defend the homeland and our foreign partners from terrorist attack through aggressive and coordinated international law enforcement action;
- To detect terrorist activity, methods, and trends that exploit international travel vulnerabilities; and
- To disrupt terrorist efforts to use fraudulent travel documents through strengthening the capacities of foreign partners.

This three-tiered approach has resulted in the deployment of additional DS Special Agents overseas. They are responsible for conducting passport-and-visa-fraud investigations in-country, working with host government law enforcement authorities to identify potential terrorist travel, and to disrupt existing in-country criminal networks. Through our close working relationships with host government law enforcement authorities, DS was able to strengthen host country resources through Department of State-sponsored antiterrorism training.

Currently, DS has 33 Special Agents assigned to key posts whose sole duty is to investigate travel-document fraud and to ensure the integrity of the consular process. By

the end of 2008, DS will have 50 agents in 48 overseas posts to serve in such a capacity. DS investigations with our foreign law enforcement colleagues and fraud prevention training of more than 7,800 foreign law enforcement and security personnel has yielded great success. Since 2004, these efforts have resulted in nearly 1,285 arrests for document fraud and related offenses, almost 4,200 visa refusals and revocations, and over 450 refusals of U.S. passports and consular record-of-birth-abroad applications.

The following are just a few specific examples of the Visa and Passport Security Program's success:

Operation Triple X - DS Special Agents in Surabaya, Indonesia, partnered with the State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs and the Indonesian National Police on Operation Triple X, an investigation that shut down 12 major criminal syndicates that produced and sold counterfeit U.S. visas and other fraudulent documents for illegal entry into the United States. The investigation, which resulted in 84 arrests, including that of an Indonesian immigration official, revealed that more than 2,000 individuals had used the services of these criminal syndicates, which had ties to terrorist extremists. All 84 individuals arrested were charged and convicted under Indonesian fraud statutes.

Human Smuggling Rings - As a result of a 17-month investigation that was initiated by a facial recognition hit in the consular section at the U.S. Embassy in Bogotá, Colombia, the Colombian Administrative Department of Security (DAS), in conjunction with the DS and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Attaché's Office, conducted a coordinated takedown of a human smuggling ring in Cali, Colombia. At the conclusion of the takedown, a total of 19 arrests were made. These arrests included five active members of the human smuggling ring, two false applicants, and 12 medical doctors who had conspired with the organization.

Document Fraud U.S. Entry Requirements Training - DS Agents and CA's Fraud Prevention Unit in Caracas conducted a Document Fraud and U.S. Entry Requirements training course for over 250 airline employees. The training session, conducted with the assistance of the Customs and Border Protection Carrier Liaison Program, focused on U.S. travel documents, entry requirements, document fraud, and fraud indicators.

Fraud Training - DS Agents in Tel Aviv developed a working agreement with the Israeli Ministry of Interior and the Israel National Police to provide anti-fraud training to new police recruits at various locations throughout Israel and at Ben-Gurion International Airport.

Strengthening Visa Security - DS Agents, in coordination with other Embassy officials, have been working with Guatemalan Government officials to strengthen the security of their visas and visa-issuance processes. This process will not only minimize host country vulnerability to document fraud, but also strengthen the U.S. consular process against those same vulnerabilities.

International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) Training - DS Agents traveled to the ILEA in Budapest, Hungary, in February of 2007 to teach a course on Diplomatic Security and document fraud. Present at the course were 48 police officers from the Ukraine, Georgia, and Azerbaijan.

In addition to DS's Visa and Passport Security Program, DS incorporates a variety of other programs in a multi-directional approach designed to combat terrorist activities. These include:

- The Rewards for Justice Program;
- The Antiterrorism Assistance Program;
- The Overseas Security Advisory Council; and
- Major Events Coordination Unit.

Rewards for Justice

DS is the operational component for the Rewards for Justice (RFJ) Program, which was established by the 1984 Act to Combat International Terrorism. RFJ continues to be one of the most valuable U.S. Government assets in the fight against international terrorism. RFJ is currently offering rewards of up to \$25 million dollars for the capture of, or information on, Usama bin Ladin and other key al-Qa'ida leaders. Through the efforts of RFJ, international terrorists and other most wanted persons have been brought to justice, including Ramzi Yousef, the bomber of the World Trade Center in 1993; Mir Aimal Kansi who killed two CIA employees and injured three others in 1993; and Uday and Qusay Hussein, Saddam Hussein's sons, killed July 22, 2003.

The goal of RFJ is to find creative ways to educate the public regarding wanted terrorists – in essence putting their names and faces before the public eye – and encourage potential sources to provide information that might help bring these terrorists to justice or resolve prior acts of terrorism against U.S. persons or property. Such methods may include television, radio, newspaper, or other media advertisements. Other advertising concepts used by RFJ include the use of banner ads on websites and distributing posters and matchbooks in areas where featured terrorists are believed to be hiding. RFJ's website (www.rewardsforjustice.net), a key component in RFJ's outreach, was recently expanded from four to 25 languages, with plans to add more languages in the coming year. The entire website was redesigned and launched on July 17, 2007.

DS's RFJ Program continually works with the CIA, DoD, FBI, and U.S. embassies around the world, adding new terrorists who pose a threat to U.S. persons and/or property to the RFJ Most Wanted List. RFJ coordinates with its interagency partners to ensure that the identities of sources are kept strictly confidential and to arrange the actual reward payment. RFJ currently has active public campaigns in Afghanistan, Colombia, Comoros Islands/Madagascar, Greece, Iraq, and the Philippines. At this time, RFJ is actively working to expand its operations into the Horn of Africa, Pakistan, and other countries in Southeast Asia. These efforts are closely coordinated with DoD's regional commands and Special Operations Command, whose Military

Information Support Teams support RFJ's advertising efforts in key frontline nations. To date, RFJ has paid over \$72 million to more than 50 people who provided actionable information that helped bring terrorists to justice or prevented acts of international terrorism.

Antiterrorism Assistance:

The events of September 11 demonstrated the need to maximize training opportunities, particularly for those designated as frontline countries in the War on Terror. It has resulted in Congressional approval of a significant expansion of the Antiterrorism Assistance (ATA) Program, both in terms of course offerings and numbers of participants.

Through the ATA Program, DS is building a global network of experts dedicated to combating terrorism and safeguarding the conduct of U.S. diplomacy, diplomatic personnel, facilities, and information around the world.

Through training programs for foreign law enforcement and security professionals, DS builds alliances with security services worldwide and bolsters the counterterrorism capabilities of our foreign partners. Many of these efforts achieved synergy through a coalition of willing and able governmental and nongovernmental partners in the international law enforcement community.

Bomb technicians trained by DS helped the Indonesian Special Detachment Task Force 88 Unit in an operation in which two terror suspects were killed, one was wounded, and a fourth was taken into custody. The operation uncovered explosive backpacks, suicide vests, and other explosive devices and components. The explosives were rendered safe by DS-trained explosives experts.

Training and assistance from DS helped Pakistan's Special Investigative Group (SIG) develop into an elite counterterrorism force. In 2006, the SIG arrested a Belgian citizen in Lahore who was plotting a suicide attack against the President of the United States. In Peshawar, the SIG investigated and raided a terrorist financing office, uncovering evidence that can be used in the prosecution of suspected terrorists. Because of the training and assistance from DS, the SIG helped the Federal Bureau of Investigation investigate the suicide bombing which resulted in the death of a Foreign Service officer at the U.S. Consulate in Karachi.

Because of its DS training, the Special Operations Unit of the Albanian State Police played a key role in a joint investigation with the Albanian Organized Crime Directorate directed against weapons trafficking. The operation resulted in the detention of five individuals, including three police officers, and subsequent searches of nine residences for illegal weapons.

In January 2006, DS began providing personal protection for the first democratically elected president of an African state, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President of

Liberia. Remaining in Monrovia until June 2006, DS agents also trained 325 Liberian personnel for that country's presidential protective service.

Overseas Security Advisory Council

The Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC), which was established in 1985, provides an ever-evolving mechanism for the sharing of security expertise and information between the Department and the private sector.

While the United States has bolstered security at our political, diplomatic, and military facilities overseas, terrorists increasingly are striking at targets that have symbolic value, including American businesses, schools, and cultural institutions and other nongovernmental facilities. Attacks on such facilities can generate many fatalities, intimidate civilian populations, and even influence politics. The shift from targeting military, diplomatic, and governmental personnel and facilities to private citizens and organizations presents DS, and the U.S. Government as a whole, with very complex challenges. OSAC was established to address such challenges and to promote security cooperation and information sharing among private-sector organizations and the U.S. Department of State. The Council is made up of 30 private-sector and four public-sector representatives who advise the Department and DS about security issues of concern to the U.S. private sector overseas.

OSAC provides an information lifeline to Americans during crises overseas. In July and August 2006, OSAC played an important role in helping Americans and American organizations during the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah. In addition to responding to more than 600 requests from constituent members for information and assistance, OSAC funneled information to the State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs and to DS's Regional Security Office in Beirut. In many cases, such information concerned special needs of Americans affected by the crisis, including serious medical and family circumstances that needed to be taken into account as part of the evacuation operation from Lebanon.

Through OSAC country councils active in some 100 nations worldwide, more than 4,500 American businesses, schools, museums, churches, and other organizations exchange timely information about the overseas security environment. The information the country councils provide is used to plan and implement security programs that protect American organizations and their personnel worldwide and to assist Americans and American organizations in crisis situations. In 2006, OSAC launched an initiative to work in partnership with other information-sharing organizations in the public sector. Through this initiative, organizations such as the New York City Police Department's Shield Unit, the Australian Security Intelligence Organization, and the United Nations Department of Safety and Security began to exchange security information.

Major Events Coordination Unit

Our Major Events Coordination Unit (MECU) helps address future worldwide security needs surrounding major events with official U.S. representation overseas. DS recently provided significant security resources to the Pan American Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and the G8 meeting in Japan.

MECU and the DS agents are the U.S. Government's primary security coordination point for the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics. In addition, DS has already begun planning and coordination support of the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver, Canada.

As these major athletic events provide terrorists with multiple targets, we must continue to offer our security coordination and expertise to foreign governments hosting these events. Having served as the U.S. Olympic coordinator to the Olympic Games in Athens, Greece, I know first-hand of the law-enforcement and counterterrorism initiatives required to keep athletic venues and our personnel protected from potential threats.

MECU also supports the Foreign Diplomatic Corps' attendance at the Democratic and Republican national conventions. DS has 15 major events-related security courses designed to improve the security posture of our partner nations as they interact with other nations. The Diplomatic Security Training Center has provided courses for the Olympics, World Soccer Cup, Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum, Cricket World Cup, as well as for international venues in Greece, Pakistan, Yemen, and 20 other countries. In 2007, ATA completed presentations in Peru and India, with more courses scheduled for South Africa and Senegal.

As I conclude, cultivating and developing partnerships with other U.S. Government law enforcement agencies, the Intelligence Community, and in particular, host-government law-enforcement elements, are critical in the defense of our homeland. Using vehicles such as EACs and LEWGs and key programs such as RFJ, OSAC, ATA, and Visa and Passport Security, DS leverages all available resources in contributing to the coordination of overseas counterterrorism efforts. With our combined effort and your assistance, I am confident that we will succeed.

Chairwoman Sanchez, I thank you and the other members of the Committee for being given the opportunity to appear here. I would now be happy to answer any questions you or the other members may have.